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May 15, 1978

Mr. Bryant L. Christensen  
District Ranger  
U.S. Forest Service  
Manti-LaSal National Forest  
P.O. Box 820  
Monticello, Utah 84535

Dear Mr. Christensen:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval are two sets of maps that present the proposed detailed site plan and engineering data for URADCO's Ransome Mining Project, Avalanchie No. 13 Mine. These data are provided pursuant to your request during the field meeting of April 27, 1978, and are supplemental to URADCO's Ransome Mining Project Operating Plan previously submitted. We believe that this information will allow the Forest Service to proceed with the Ransome project review for the Avalanchie No. 13 site.

For the purpose of expediting the Ransome Operating Plan approval and the posting of a bond, we wish to indicate that the project will be completed in two phases. Phase I will include all activities associated with the Avalanchie No. 13 Mine. Phase II will include the activities at the Avalanchie Nos. 3 and 9 and Virgene Mines.

We wish for you to focus your current review on the Phase I - Avalanchie No. 13 activities. Upon your approval of this project phase, please indicate the amount of bond for the Phase I activities.

Although Phase II may follow Phase I by two or three years, we wish to have the Phase II activities also approved within a few months after Phase I approval. We understand that at that time, an additional bond may be required.

It has become apparent that the proposed development of the old Avalanchie mine workings may cause discharge of mine water. Where the quality of mine water meets state and federal water quality standards, discharge will be into

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a settling pond, and eventually to Cottonwood Wash. In the event that the mine water does not meet the water quality standards, water treatment will be necessary before discharge into the local stream drainages.

In order to minimize delay time in mine development operations if water is encountered, we are requesting approval of a ten acre water evaporation/treatment site. As we do not want approval of this site to detract from USFS approval of the Phase I activities described above, we request that the water disposal site review be conducted subsequent to your approval of Phase I. As seen on the accompanying maps, three alternate locations have been identified for this purpose. These sites have been located with respect to topography, slope relative to safe and adequate construction, proximity to mine workings and distance from the watershed drainage system.

Initially the proposed water evaporation/treatment site will include a primary evaporation pond with an estimated maximum capacity of 6.0 million gallons. This sized pond will allow draining of the Avalanchie No. 13 workings to allow assessment of ground conditions in the old workings and a better estimate of subsequent water qualities and quantities. These old workings, if drained, could also serve as an additional adit, haulageway, escapeway or for ventilation.

If the results of these tests indicate the need, secondary ponds may be located within the approved ten acre site, and would be used in conjunction with the primary evaporation pond for mine water treatment by the barium chloride treatment process.

After you have had an opportunity to review the supplemental information, we will be happy to discuss its contents with you. We hope to review with you in the near future in the field the plans for a ten acre site for water disposal/treatment. Your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

Bob Ward

Bob Ward  
Manager  
Safety and Environmental Affairs

BW/dc

cc: J. McMurray  
F. Hahne  
G. Shay (URADCO)  
T. Holmes  
J. Nelson

enclosures (2 sets)